

to 200 individuals per year of the orders Cetacea (all species) and Pinnipedia (with the exception of walruses) from yet to be determined locations outside the U.S. All samples will be imported for diagnostic testing to determine the causes of outbreaks or unusual natural mortalities, investigations into the ecology of diseases in free-ranging animals, or unexpected mortalities in captive populations. All biological specimens will originate from animals found deceased in nature, collected opportunistically during the animals' capture by other researchers possessing permits for such activities, or from specimens legally held in captivity outside the U.S.A. No live animals will be taken from the wild for research. The permit is issued for a period of five years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 17, 2009.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XQ41

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Partially Closed Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Sea Turtle Advisory Committee (STAC) in Honolulu, HI. A portion of the meeting will be closed to the public.

DATES: The STAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 through Thursday, August 6, 2009, from 8:30am to 5:30pm. The portion of the meeting held from 9:30am to 5:30pm on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 will be closed to the public.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI; telephone: (808)522-8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The STAC will review the Council's sea turtle conservation program and other relevant activities, and produce recommendations for future program activities. The meeting will be closed to the public from 9:30am to 5:30pm on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 to discuss confidential employment and other internal administrative matters, in accordance with Section 302 (i)(3)(A)(ii) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. All other portions of this meeting will be open to the public.

Agenda

8:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 5, 2009

1. Introduction and Approval of the Agenda
 2. Review of Recommendations from the 4th STAC Meeting
 3. Overview of Council Projects
 - 4.-9. STAC Discussion on Contracts and Other Internal Administrative Matters (Closed Sessions)
- 8:30 a.m. Thursday, August 6, 2009**
10. Fishery Impacts Offset Analysis
 11. Update of Sea Turtle Interactions in Hawaii-based Fisheries
 12. Updates from STAC Members: Ongoing Projects and Recent Developments
 13. Overview of Agency Activities
 14. Top 20 Research Questions to Inform Marine Turtle Conservation
 15. Funding Priorities for the next 5 years
 16. Council Project Proposal Protocol
 17. Recommendations from the STAC
 18. Next meeting and meeting wrap-up

The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The Committee will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808)522-8220 (voice) or (808)522-8226

(fax), at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 20, 2009

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E9-17511 Filed 7-22-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XQ29

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Boom Exercise Drills at Point Mugu, California

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; proposed incidental harassment authorization; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS received an application from Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Point Mugu for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to boom deployment exercises at Point Mugu, California. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an IHA to NBVC Point Mugu to take, by Level B harassment only, one species of marine mammal during the specified activity.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than August 24, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225. The mailbox address for providing email comments is PR1.0648-XQ29@noaa.gov. NMFS is not responsible for e-mail comments sent to addresses other than the one provided here. Comments sent via e-mail, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for